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La Salle and his henchman, Tonty. La Salle, ascending the Illinois river when returning to Canada in 1680, recognized the strategic value of the impregnable bluff and charged Tonty to make the rock the base of supplies in time of necessity. Approximately one-half of the volume deals with the dreams and efforts of the dauntless La Salle to found a western colony in the vicinity of the rock, then called Fort St. Louis, and the attempts of Tonty to fulfill them. In an endeavor to bring settlers from France, La Salle perished. Tonty, nevertheless, through many vicissitudes, remained faithful to his chief's ideals and Fort St. Louis "continued to be the center of French power and influence in the Mississippi Valley for at least a decade."

With a change of policy toward the west on the part of a Canadian governor, the fort was abandoned about 1700 and remained merely the rendezvous for unlicensed traders. With the entrance of more decided British interests in the west during the eighteenth century, the historic rock played many parts in the struggles between French, British, and Indians. But the end of the drama which gave to the rock its suggestive name grew out of the desire for revenge of the murder of Pontiac. In no place is it chronicled in history, but tradition tells the tale that the remnants of the tribe of the brave Illinois pursued to this last stronghold by their enemies, the Pottawatomies, died of starvation.

In this little book, the author has woven into an interesting tale much scattered material with which the casual reader seldom comes in contact. These sources with a few comments are printed in the footnotes. Of no little interest are the illustrations of the rock and vicinity, reproductions of rare maps and engravings and a glossary.

The book first appeared in 1895, with revised and enlarged editions appearing in 1911 and 1914.

L. M. A.

*Life story of Rasmus B. Anderson.* Written by himself with the assistance of Albert O. Barton. (Madison, Wisconsin: Privately printed, 1915. 678 p.)

An active, voluble, egotistical, uncritical pioneer, an unskilful reporter, a soft lead pencil, two easy chairs and plenty of paper and printer's ink, have produced this corpulent volume of gossip, which is fortunately redeemed here and there by first-hand contributions to the history of the last fifty years. It is not a history, even of its author; out of this mass of variegated rock specimens gathered from many fields may be smelted some pure metal for the historian who has both the time and patience for the process, but the reader will steadily regret that Mr. Anderson's vigor, versatility, and unusual experiences have not found worthier and less newspaperish expression. A volume of 671 pages without an index

of any kind is inexcusable, even if it has 150 chapters; some of these have absurd titles and lengths — lvii, “Myself again;” xcv, “Official calls,” eleven lines; cxxiv, “Callers” (on the minister to Denmark), thirteen lines; and cxxxiv, “Mr. Barton and I take a rest,” seventeen lines. Two other characteristics vitiate the value of Mr. Anderson’s *Life story*. He deliberately and all but boastingly neglected to consult his notes and memoranda, trusting in the preparation of this autobiography to that “rare memory” and “high appreciation of dramatic values” which Mr. Barton assures the reader are characteristics of Mr. Anderson. He uses quotation marks with alarming audacity and frequency, putting within them conversation and speeches, long and short, to him and by him, from the days of his student agitations and rebellions in 1865 to interviews in the eighties and nineties with emperors, kings, statesmen, literati, clergymen, politicians, and common scoundrels. Almost without exception these speeches and remarks are re-extemporized or hearsay or apocryphal or, possibly, imaginary.

The life of Mr. Anderson spans practically the whole period of considerable Scandinavian immigration to the United States. He was born in Wisconsin of Norwegian immigrant parents in 1846, when the total of foreign-born Swedes and Norwegians in America did not greatly exceed 6,000. From his father, as he repeatedly states, he inherited a restless, contentious disposition (pp. 3, 47, 103), and his hand and voice, frequently a loud voice, have been in most of the activities of the Norwegians in America since the civil war. Years ago Björnson wrote of him in a Christiania newspaper: “Anderson has one single purpose in life: To make the Norwegians honored in America” (p. 219).

From unpromising beginnings and in the face of hardships and discouragements unnumbered, this volume shows how he won applause if not permanent glory in many arenas. As student, teacher, university professor, writer, editor, translator of many books, *sprachmeister* in seven languages, and untiring propagandist of Scandinavian culture both old and new, he achieved prominence if not scholarly distinction; and the telling of the story of such a life is bound to be interesting. It reveals him throughout as a zealous promoter of curiously diverse interests, personal, political, cultural, and financial; kaleidoscopic in the turns of his fate, and chameleon-like in the queer colorings of his literary and oratorical effort, university teaching, and business relations. Chapters on pioneer conditions in Wisconsin and on diplomatic experiences in Copenhagen democratically jostle chapters on adventures in life insurance, rubber, and cod liver oil, and still other chapters on Lincoln, Emperor William II, the Prince of Wales, Clark E. Carr, and LaFollette. Most of his literary work is amateurish, superficial, and ephemeral; his *America not discovered by Columbus*, to which he makes frequent refer-

ence, is not even mentioned in the extended bibliography in Mr. Hovgaard's recent scholarly work on the *Voyages of the Norsemen to America*. His *Norse mythology*, an elaborate yet popular presentation of old Norse religion, has more substantial merit and importance (chapter LII).

Among Mr. Anderson's most significant and permanent services are the wide recognition which he secured in America for the worthy things of Scandinavian literature and history, and the establishment in the University of Wisconsin of the first chair of Scandinavian languages and literature in an American university. The latter came about almost entirely as the result of his unremitting efforts, and his account of his long struggle is one of the best things in the book. Six other state universities followed Wisconsin in this movement, and in several states students may now present for admission to college either Swedish or Norwegian, alongside of Latin and German. Mr. Anderson's statement (p. 213) that Harvard and Columbia have followed Wisconsin's example is grossly inaccurate, since in neither institution is there a professorship or instructorship devoted to Scandinavian.

The first third of this volume is much more significant for the student of history than the later portions. The changing conditions of frontier life, the struggle of immigrant and native for a living and for an education during the "mediæval period" of western history, the picturesque personalities who were drawn into the great west, and the forces which played upon the mobile population of that region, are described with vivacity and sympathy. Illustrations drawn from his experience are abundant. His intimacy with Ole Bull, Paul Du Chaillu, and Björnstjerne Björnson furnishes theme for several specially interesting chapters, but even the most gossip-loving reader hardly cares to be told that "One day while we were seated at the table our little boy George stole behind him (Du Chaillu) and impressed a kiss on his bald head" (p. 354).

In his varied career in America and as minister to Denmark from 1885 to 1889 — he is justly proud of the fact that he was the first Scandinavian-American to reach this dignity — Mr. Anderson found and made opportunities to meet an unusually large number of notables, about whom he rambles on amiably, though very rarely contributing anything significant to the reader's knowledge of personality or event. Exceptions are to be noted, however, in his account of his brief official interview with Prince Bismarck (pp. 460-462), and in his pen sketches of Ibsen, Brandes, Strindberg, Björnson, and Grieg. As a sidelight on the motives and methods which operated in American diplomacy thirty years ago, the chapter (cxxxii) on "What became of Enander," who was appointed to succeed Mr. Anderson in Copenhagen but who was prevented

by "illness" from crossing the Atlantic again, is one of the frankest and most remarkable contributions in the whole volume.

While Mr. Anderson has generally and wisely refrained, perhaps somewhat ostentatiously also, from entering into the numerous acrimonious discussions and controversies in which he took a lively part, for example the ecclesiastical disputes among the Norwegian Lutherans, he devotes his next to the longest chapter to LaFollette and the various occasions on which that statesman has appeared in the sinister rôle of Iago in Wisconsin politics (chapter cxlvi). In this chapter and in the longer one succeeding it on "Det Norske Selskab (The Norwegian society)" there is no lack of personalities or of positiveness.

The volume closes with six pages of "Anderson bibliography" reprinted from the *Bibliography of Wisconsin authors* published by the Wisconsin state historical society in 1892; five supplementary entries are added, of which the most recent,—except the Norwegian newspaper *Amerika*,—is for the year 1903.

KENDRIC C. BABCOCK

*Recollections of a long life, 1829-1915.* By Isaac Stephenson. (Chicago: Privately printed, 1915. 264 p.)

Ex-senator Isaac Stephenson, best known through the investigation which revealed the great expense attendant upon carrying the Wisconsin senatorial primary in 1908, was elected to congress from the Marinette district in 1882, and sat in the lower house for three terms. He was already locally famous and rich, being a lumberman who had exploited northern Wisconsin timber since his arrival from New Brunswick, via the Maine woods, in 1845. To his business experience he properly devotes the greater part of his autobiography, showing a vivid picture of a manner of life that is almost extinct. But the motive for writing the book appears to be a desire to justify his political career. After retiring from the house of representatives he held no important office for some years, but developed senatorial aspirations, hoping to succeed John L. Mitchell in 1899, with the support of Henry C. Payne, the Milwaukee republican leader. He was abandoned by the organization, however, and at this point he realized "the devious ways of the 'machine'" and provided funds for Mr. R. M. LaFollette, candidate for governor as a half-breed against the stalwarts. The story of the alliance as told here does not agree with that related by Senator LaFollette in his own autobiography, but it is too early to apply the critical test to either. In later years the two fell apart, and Mr. Stephenson was elected to the senate in 1907 without the active aid he had expected from Senator LaFollette. The next year, at the age of seventy-nine, he carried the state at the senatorial primaries against the open opposition of the LaFollette repub-